

Andru Volinsky,
Executive Councilor for District Two
Meeting Report
Executive Council Meeting of April 5, 2017

Please feel free to contact me at Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov.

Council Agenda Items of Note

The Council breakfast preceding the April 5th meeting was hosted by the Governor at the Bridges House. We received an interesting presentation by the Granite State Children's Alliance. cac-nh.org. The Granite State Children's Alliance operates child advocacy centers for abused children and provides technical assistance, training and organizational resources to assist in the prosecution or other resolution of child abuse cases.

Gordon MacDonald was confirmed by a 5-0 vote to be New Hampshire's next attorney general. Mr. MacDonald is held in high regard by the legal community as evidenced by the witnesses who spoke in his favor at the Council's confirmation hearing. Although Mr. MacDonald and I have different political philosophies, I have found him to be very competent and ethical in his work. We also have worked in common to advance our mutual interests in ensuring that New Hampshire's voters are permitted to vote without interference or intimidation and that people without financial means have access to good lawyers through Legal Aid programs throughout our state.

The Council approved dates for the election to fill the seat of Senator McGilvray who recently passed away. Senator McGilvray represented Senate District 16 which includes Bow, Candia, Dunbarton, Hooksett, and Manchester Wards 1, 2 and 12. The filing period for this seat is now April 10th-14th. If a primary is necessary, it will be held on June 6th, with a general election to be held on July 25th. If a primary is unnecessary, the general election will occur on June 6th.

Two items were removed from our consent agenda at the request of Councilor Wheeler so that he could exercise a "no" vote. Both items authorized expenditures of up to \$1500 to permit state employees to attend SNHU's College for America. The items passed 4-1.

The Council approved substantial lease arrangements for DHHS offices to serve the seacoast in Exeter and Portsmouth. The Division of Public Health of DHHS was also approved to continue an expanded telemedicine project serving New Hampshire's rural hospitals. All were approved on a 5-0 vote.

The Department of Resources and Economic Development was approved to contract with the Student Conservation Association ("SCA") in Charlestown to offer trail maintenance and nature-oriented interpretative services through our parks and in our schools by a 5-0 vote.

Attached to this Report, please find descriptions of agenda items relevant to Council District Two sorted by whether the item is one of a statewide scope or concerns the Monadnock

Region, the Central Region of District Two which is centered around Merrimack County or the Strafford County portion of District Two.

Nominations and Confirmations

As mentioned above, Mr. MacDonald was confirmed as Attorney General. Dana M. Call of Windham was confirmed to be Director of Accounting Services for the Dept. of Admin Services. Emelia Galdieri of Chichester was confirmed to be Deputy Banking Commissioner. Stephen M. Duprey of Concord, Matthew H. Benson of Concord, Jeffrey Hayes of Intervale, F. Daniel Henderson of Hancock, Jeremy Hitchcock of Manchester, and Catherine Provencher of Merrimack were all approved to be members of the Business Finance Authority board. James P. Burnett, III of Concord was confirmed to join the University System Board of Trustees.

The Governor submitted numerous nominations for state boards and commissions as follows:

Damon E. Burt, Strafford, to the Board of Home Inspectors

Jotham M. Otterson and Ashley G. Woods of Manchester to the Bd. Of Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Christopher D. Hawkins, Newmarket, to the Board of Land Surveyors

Adam Dumville, Exeter, to the Professional Geologists Board

Peter Kujawski, Bedford, to be Comm'r of the Dept. of Environmental Services*

Kenneth Merrifield, Franklin, to be Comm'r of the Dept. of Labor**

Deborah A. Pendergast, Gilford, to be Director of the Division of Fire Standards and Training and Medical Services

Matthew Connors, Bedford, to the Electricians Board

Mark J. Ciocca, Penacook, to the Family Mediator Certification Board

Keith Quinton, Hanover, to the Independent Investment Committee of the NH Retirement System

Dino A. Scala, Wakefield, to the NH Judicial Council

Scott M. Costa, Kingston, to the NH Water Well Board

** Mr. Merrifield will have a confirmation hearing at Council Chambers on April 12th beginning at 9am. The PUBLIC is welcome to attend and testify at both hearings.

*Mr. Kujawski will have a confirmation hearing at Council Chambers on April 12th beginning at 2pm.

Spotlight

A. \$15 an Hour

At my request, the Department of Administrative Services began reporting the lowest rates of compensation paid by state vendors to their employees on state projects. This practice has now been adopted by the Department of Employment Security and the Department of Resources and Economic Development. There were not, however, any contracts with vendors related to this topic at this meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting will occur at the State House on April 19th, 2017, beginning at 10. a.m. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by the Secretary of State on the Executive Council web page late on the preceding Friday afternoon.

<http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx>

Councilor Kenny will be responsible for organizing the Executive Council's informal breakfast, which may be attended by the public. It will begin at 8 a.m. at the Department of Transportation.